

# THE GLEICHEN CALL

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## History Farm Electrification In Alberta

(BY CALGARY POWER CO.)

It is impossible to say accurately just when farm electrification first started in Alberta but we know it was first provided by small individual lighting plants. While there have been a number of makes on the market, we believe the early pioneering was done with Delco light plants. Over 30 years ago, salaried hauled Delco and other lighting plants all over Alberta in their cars to make demonstrations at farms and cross-road stores.

There is still a definite place in farm electrification for individual isolated plants today. Many farms in Alberta are so situated that it is virtually impossible, or at least not economically feasible, to bring central station service to them. Here consideration must be given not only to the prohibitive cost of long lines, but also to the high maintenance costs and depreciation charges. This would make the rate for power so expensive that most farmers could not afford to use the service.

Small lighting plants, supplemented where possible by central station service will provide the economical service for lighting and operation of household appliances. Many of them are still being installed every year.

Until 25 years ago most cities, towns and villages where electric service was available received their power from local plants. There were relatively few transmission lines and consequently any farmer wishing electric service had either to build a line himself from a city, town or village, if he lived near one, or obtain his service by means of his own generating plant.

In many of the towns and villages service was provided only on a part-time basis. The majority of them had service during the evening hours from dusk until 12 or 1 o'clock at night. In some of the towns service was also provided on Monday mornings for washing and Tuesday afternoon for ironing. However, it was some kind of service and very much appreciated, though only relatively few people had electric washing machines or electric irons.

Without vision there can be no progress. Power Company engineers had a vision of providing central electric service for as many of Alberta as possible. Their vision included the possibility of farm electrification.

In 1926 Calgary Power decided to branch out to rural Alberta from Calgary where it supplied a good part of the city's electric needs from plants on the Bow River. The first of such lines was constructed from Calgary to High River in 1927. This line was extended towards the south to Westlock in the north, with lateral lines east to Macklin, Saskatchewan; Wainwright, Bassano, Taber west to Pincher Creek and later Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg.

With transmission lines spread almost completely over the more thickly populated areas of Alberta it was thought that farm electrification would develop quite rapidly. With little thought in mind, Calgary Power constructed the first comprehensive farm electrification area in the province. This was in the vicinity of the Vulcan, Ensign and Brant areas. The experiment proved to be a failure. At least, the enthusiasm of the farmers supplied was much less than was expected.

There have been many theories advanced as to why rural electrification did not develop along with, and at the same time as the original transmission. It is not one theory but that the costs were too high, but that is not true. Many schemes to encourage farm electrification were tried and individual farmers were offered service for a total construction cost of less than \$100, but only a few accepted the offer. It is now generally felt that farmers were not ready to accept the benefits of electric service because they did not realize how electric service could increase farm production. Consumer demand, like public opinion, must lead the way.

Over the next ten years many promotional schemes were tried to encourage farmers to take service and some did, but the majority were not. (Continued on last page.)

## News Items of Local Interest

Garden growing in three words:  
Plan  
Plant  
Pants.

Mrs. Blanche Robinson had the misfortune to fracture her ankle one day last week. At present she is confined to the Holy Cross hospital in Calgary.

J. O. Bogette spent most of last week in town looking after his business interests here. Mr. Bogette now makes his home in Calgary and says he likes city life very well.

Wm. Sutermeister has purchased a house in Calgary and in several months time expects to move to the city.

Ernie Johnston had his car stolen Saturday night. He had it parked in town and was greatly surprised to find it missing. It has since been found deserted at Chatterbox Lake.

Sam Linn who has a large interest in Shoreline Stores here was down from Calgary Monday visiting the store.

Our friend St. Milliken walked into the Gleichen Pharmacy: "Have you a 'air resorser' that really resorbs?" and James: "Here is a preparation sure to do the trick." Mr. Milliken: "Alright, I'll take it and you might as well wrap up a comb and brush."

An increase of 1.3 per cent in Alberta's farm population occurred between 1946 and 1951. Figures from a report by the census division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show farm populations of 355,010 in 1946 and 359,955 in 1951. In the same period the number of people living in centres of less than 1,000 increased 2.2 per cent while the population of larger centres increased 26.9 per cent. This slowing up in the rate of increase in farm population while the non-farm rural and urban population is booming may be looked on by some as an undesirable trend. It is pointed out, however, that the most important change taking place in the farm picture today is the increasing efficiency arising largely from substitution of machinery for human labor. The physical volume of farm production per worker appears to be increasing considerably, but this change cannot be measured accurately in a short period because of weather differences.

May we suggest one of the things that ought to be a fixed habit of every household in Gleichen and district? Won't more cultivate the practice of sending news items to The Call? Most of you every week know of items of interest and your co-operation would increase interest in the paper. Every

## FROM THE FILES OF THE CALL TWENTY YEARS AGO

Bill Blaney of Okotoks, formerly of Stobart, where he operated the Pool elevator spent the week end in town.

Mrs. Opal Desjardine who has been visiting in Calgary for several weeks has returned home. While practicing softball last Tuesday evening Frank Woods had the misfortune to twist his ankle and will be out of softball for some time.

T. U. G. G. elevator office was broken into by some unknown person who got away with Mr. Drinnan's overcoat, a bunch of keys and the big bass horn Mr. Drinnan plays with in the Gleichen band. The keys were found scattered along the track back of the elevators by H. Schepf. The overcoat and big horn are still missing. The corn is reported to be worth \$250.

Frank Daw shipped 28 head of fat steers to Calgary all of which graded choice beef. The buyers shipped the animals to Vancouver. Mr. Daw says these steers were winter fed and he started to feed them last September.

Irvine Young of Majorville spent a few days in town last week. A gang of forty men are at work on the telephone lines at Namaka. Mr. and Mrs. Art Bremner of Namaka spent a few hours in town yesterday on business.

Stan Young and A. Tiekens have organized another football team in town. The name they go under is the "Quakers".

church, lodge and every organization social or otherwise would have representative to look promptly and carefully after news reporting. If you think some organizations have better news service than your own it probably is because they look after such matters better.

After spending the past three weeks in town holidaying and visiting friends Cecil Weder has returned to Edmonton. Mr. Weder was a resident of Gleichen for some time and while here was a member of the staff of the Bank of Commerce. He is still with the same bank in Edmonton.

Good progress is being made with the work on the Trans-Canada highway in this district. For the past two weeks the big trucks have been going steadily hauling gravel from the big pit at the river. Crushed rock is being laid for some miles east of town and is being rolled and rolled in preparation for the hard top. Going north from town almost two miles of hardtop was laid last week. Given good weather for a couple of weeks should see the hard top laid to the pit at the river. There you will see the stuff cooked and dumped into trucks. If you want to see a hot fire and hear plenty of noise that is the place to go.

## Mrs. Thomas Plante

Mrs. Thomas Plante a former resident of Gleichen died Saturday in Calgary at the age of 86 years.

Mrs. Plante was born in the United States and came to Canada 60 years ago to settle in Manitoba. After several years resident there moved to Leduc, Alberta, later to Fernie and in 1908 came to Gleichen. She lived there until several years ago when she moved to Calgary.

Surviving are five sons: Joseph of Coleman, Thomas in the Peace River, Charles of Seattle, Frank of Bellevue and John of Gleichen; a daughter, Mrs. A. Seale of Berkeley, California; a brother Henry of Iron River, Wis.; 16 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The funeral took place at 2:30 Tuesday morning. Mass being held in St. Victor's church. Gleichen after which interment was made in the family plot in the local Catholic cemetery.

The pall bearers were A. Plante, W. Plante, Leo Desjardine, R. Cunningham, F. Pierard and N. Purcell.

## IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." Writing so many years ago, Charles Dickens might have had in mind this Year of Grace, 1952.

Certainly it is the best of times for never has man reached so high a peak of inventiveness, so lofty a pinnacle of compassion toward his suffering fellows; certainly it is the worst of times, for seldom in the world's story has fear so hovered over mankind, fear of war and total destruction because of man's invention of death dealing instruments.

"The twentieth century is an age of wisdom nor man knows more about the environment in which his life is led, about the universe and indeed about the Providence that activates the universe than ever before; it is an age of foolishness because man with all his knowledge has not learned how to live in peace with his fellows has not learned how to put his knowledge to use to make this planet a place of plenty for all."

This is an epoch of belief... belief in the dignity of the individual, belief in goodness and freedom and love it is an epoch of incredulity too, for man has shown an indifference to the things of the spirit that is appalling, a neglect of worship, a materialism that threatens to overwhelm the good

of this age of ours.

It is a season of light for man's aims are high—he is facing his responsibilities for his fellows and through the United Nations is making some attempt to create a world of justice and right; it is a season

of darkness because man falls short of his aims and still has many blunders in his groping for a better world.

It is the spring of hope... hope that all mankind may someday be free to live in peace and harmony and

enlightenment; it is the winter of despair because I may be that man may decay himself before he can achieve that good which man exists in every corner of the world. God's promise to man is to be fulfilled.

## NEW EXPERIMENTAL CHRYSLER CONVERTIBLE C-200



Chrysler Corporation's experimental C-200 convertible, designed in Detroit by Chrysler engineers and built in Italy, arrived in New York City from Europe, aboard the liner, S.S. Constitution. The picture shows the convertible being lowered to the dock after a fast Trans-Atlantic crossing.

The C-200 convertible was conceived and designed by Chrysler Engineers in Detroit as a "further experiment to explore the blending of sports car styling with practical automobile design and engineering features." European influence is reflected in the longer hood and large, fully exposed wire wheels.

## Guardians of Peace! The Infantry Signaller...

The Canadian Infantryman with his superior training and personal qualities has won the respect of the world as a fighting man. He is once again proving to be the most important man in the Canadian Army.

Vital to the successful operation of Infantry is the man who must maintain lines of communication between the front line and forward headquarters. He is the Infantry Signaller, an important man in keeping the finely balanced team of modern infantry operating smoothly and successfully.

Take your place in the front lines of Canada's freedom. Serve with the Infantry. You are eligible if you are 17 to 40 years of age and ready to serve anywhere.

Apply now to the Army Recruiting office nearest your home

No. 10 Personnel Depot, Currie Barracks, Calgary, Alta.

The Army Information Centre, 10040 101st Street, Edmonton, Alta.

The Army Information Centre in your home town

Listen to "Voice of the Army" — Tuesday and Thursday evenings — Dominion Network.



Join the CANADIAN ARMY ACTIVE FORCE Now!







# Help and Hope

## ...for heavy hearts

When hope fails, the heavy heart knows where to turn. For seventy years Canada The Salvation Army has been the unfailing friend of those brought low by misfortune or misdeed. To these it offers help and hope—the opportunity to start anew on the road to happy and useful living. The Army will mark its 70th Anniversary by a great expansion of its services. It relies confidently on YOUR dollars to help make this possible.

Give...  
from the heart!



## THE Salvation Army

### RED SHIELD APPEAL

MAJOR L. HANSEN IS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL RED SHIELD CAMPAIGN



## Town & District

Mrs. R. Brown and Mrs. Yates have been appointed delegates to attend the convention of Home and School Association in Edmonton this week. They leave tomorrow—Thursday for the northern city.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Menard and daughter Joy of Grand Prairie arrived in town last week to visit relatives for a few days.

The Gleichen Gun Club is getting ready for the season. Sunday afternoon the members burned the grass off the club premises and generally cleaned up the place.

Quite a few Gleichen people have been on sick list during the past couple of weeks. W. Blaney agent of the Pool elevator underwent an operation Monday. Rene Grant age eight is recovering from an operation having had his appendix removed. Mrs. Ross Fiddes is doing well after an operation. Eddie Holland has been confined to his home suffering from pneumonia. He is recovering. Mrs. J. Young has been confined to her home through illness. Blain Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cam Evans had his tonsils removed last week and is now home.

Cam Evans has taken his big cat-propeller tractor to the upper mouth of the river where the machine will be used to help in construction of the new siphon being built there. The new siphon will double the volume of water being carried over the coles on route to Lake McGregor. Before leaving town with it, "cat" he leveled off some of the streets, pushed piles of drifted soil out of an ally and knocked over several big trees for folks wanting them removed.

"Well, Dick, my boy," said his uncle, "my congratulations. I hear you're engaged to one of the pretty Noyes twins." "Basher!" replied Dick, heartily. "But," said his uncle, "how on earth do you manage to tell them apart?" "Oh," said the young man, "I don't."

The Gleichen Public Library will be open from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday of each week. Adults 50 cents per year. Children of school age 10 cents per year. A. Horn, secretary-treasurer.

If you want to sell, You have to tell, So ring your bell And give a yell, And Advertise.

Somebody is always kicking about the local paper not containing certain news, but in nine cases out of ten, if we publish all the news that we know about these kickers we would start a riot. It is strange quality of human nature that one always wants the low down on the other fellow published, but the good live story about himself he would much rather have suppressed. In trying to protect the public generally the local paper is often a dull so far as sensational news is concerned.

It was very early in the morning. A befuddled Gleichenite was fumbling for the keyhole. Seeing this difficulty a policeman came to the rescue. "Can I help you find the key hole?" he asked. "Won't be necessary," said the other cheerfully. "You just hold it's house still and I can manage."

(Continued from page 1)

## History Farm

electrically minded and could not be persuaded. Before the war, although Calgary Power had approximately 2,500 miles of transmission line in operation, less than 400 farmers had been persuaded to take service. The condition extended all over Canada and especially in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In the later period of the war a great emphasis was laid on peak production of agricultural products. Because of the shortage of manpower for farm help, the many tasks which could be done by electrical motors and appliances became more and more apparent to an increasing number of farmers, who wished to obtain the labor saving advantages of electric service.

In all plans of reconstruction programs after the war farm electrification had high priority on every list. Power companies, realized this and made plans to be put into effect as soon as materials and manpower were available; but there were many problems to be faced.

In approaching the problem of farm electrification in Alberta on a wide scale, it immediately became apparent that some fact-finding investigations would have to be carried out.

To do this power companies sent representatives to the United States to observe at first hand the work being carried out there by rural electrification co-operative associations. Plans and co-operations in other parts of Canada were also studied. From these observations and the facts revealed in various reports, it was decided a survey would have to be made to determine the extent of farm electrification which could be carried out in Alberta and that might be considered economically feasible.

In 1943 Andrew Stewart, now president of the University of Alberta, was engaged by the provincial government to make a report to the Council of Alberta on the possibilities of rural electrification in this province. He made a very comprehensive study of this subject with the help of members of various departments of the government, members of engineering staffs of the power companies and others. (To be continued)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

LOST—Wallet containing money, papers, identification. A. Vex Ellinsky, please leave at R.C.M.P. Howard.

WANTED—Man or lady to sell De-Pix-32, new scientific insect control. No sprays, no odors. Excellent paying sideline. Write Fetherston's Sales, Nanton, Alberta.

The Canadian Pacific is the largest privately owned railroad in the world. More than 12,000 pounds of aluminum are needed for every jet fighter plane manufactured in Canada.

In the year 1951 Canada counted more than 2,500,000 automobiles on the road, including 600,000 trucks. The Canadian Pacific Railway covers some 17,000 miles, compared with 13,100 for the Atchafon, Topeka and Santa Fe, biggest American carrier.

## DOG OWNERS

If Licences are not procured by

MAY 10, 1952

proceedings will be taken under By-law No. 399. I

By Order of Council.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOOKS MUST BE RENEWED

EMPLOYERS!—Please send all unemployment insurance books for 1951-52 and previous years immediately to the National Employment Office with which you deal, unless renewal arrangements have already been made. They must be exchanged for new books.

Before sending in your 1951-52 insurance books, make note of the date on which stamp is affixed, so as to avoid duplication in the new books.

Renewal of books is important to you, to your employees and to the Commission. Please Act Promptly.

TO THE INSURED WORKER!—Have you an insurance book in your possession? If so, please take or send it to the nearest National Employment Office for renewal immediately. If you send your book, enclose your present address so that your new book may be sent to you promptly.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

C. A. L. MURCHISON J. G. BISSON R. J. TALLON  
Commissioner Controller Controller



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

## CLEAN-UP WEEK

MAY 12-17

Ratepayers are requested to clean up their properties during the week of May 12-17.

By Order of Council.

## "JUST LOOK AT THESE BARGAIN OFFERS!"

THIS NEWSPAPER, 1 Year, with  
OFFER No. 1 1 MAGAZINE FROM GROUP B \$3.75  
OFFER No. 2 1 MAGAZINE FROM GROUP A \$4.75  
OFFER No. 3 4 MAGAZINES FROM GROUP B \$4.35

GROUP A

Mark an "X" before magazine desired and enclose list with order.

<input type="checkbox"/> Redbook Magazine	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coronet	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine Digest	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Afield	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Screen Stories	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Field and Stream	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> True Story	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> McCall's Magazine	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting & Fishing in Canada	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Prom	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Modern Screen	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Grower	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> American Girl	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Camera Magazine	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Everybody's Digest	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Skyways	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents' Magazine	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Screen	1 Yr.

GROUP B

Mark an "X" before magazine desired and enclose list with order.

<input type="checkbox"/> Maclean's (24 issues)	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Home Journal	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Chatelaine	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Herald & Weekly Star	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Producer	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Guide	2 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> New Liberty	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Press Weekly Prairie Farmer	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Health (6 issues)	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Saskatchewan Farmer	2 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> B.C. Farmer & Gardener	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Farm Leader	1 Yr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Poultryman	1 Yr.

## "SOME MORE REAL BUYS!"

<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night (Weekly)	\$4.60
<input type="checkbox"/> Maclean's (24 issues)	4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> National Home Monthly	2.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Home Journal	2.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Chatelaine	2.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Herald & Weekly Star	2.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Press Weekly Prairie Farmer	2.75
<input type="checkbox"/> New Liberty	1.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Guide (2 years)	2.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Producer	1.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Redbook Magazine	4.80
<input type="checkbox"/> Coronet	4.80
<input type="checkbox"/> Collier's Weekly	4.80

ALL MAGAZINES FOR 1 YEAR UNLESS TERM INDICATED

## THIS NEWSPAPER, 1 YEAR, AND ANY MAGAZINE LISTED BOTH FOR PRICE SHOWN

Mark an "X" before magazine desired and enclose list with order.

<input type="checkbox"/> Cosmopolitan Magazine	\$4.60
<input type="checkbox"/> Woman's Home Companion	3.40
<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine Digest	4.20
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Herald	4.10
<input type="checkbox"/> McCall's Magazine	2.90
<input type="checkbox"/> True Story	2.90
<input type="checkbox"/> Modern Screen	3.60
<input type="checkbox"/> Popular Science Monthly	3.40
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents' Magazine	3.60
<input type="checkbox"/> Elude (Music)	4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> American Girl	3.20
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Prom	2.60
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Afield	3.10

## FILL OUT COUPON! Mail Today

Check magazines desired and enclose with coupon.

Gentlemen: I enclose \$ and Please send me the other checked with a pre-paid subscription to your paper.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET OR R.R. \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ALLOW 4 to 6 WEEKS FOR FIRST COPIES OF MAGAZINES TO ARRIVE!

ALL OFFERS ARE GUARANTEED